

CLAIMS

1. A method for maintaining reliability of a support to a Printed Circuit Board, the method comprising the steps:

5 positioning elongated support members in an array layout to support a printed circuit board, wherein the elongated support members are configured and held within a base member, and

10 deflecting solder paste from interface between the elongated support member and the base member with a protective collar.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the protective collar is of molded rubber.

15 3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of protecting the printed circuit board with the inclusion of a compliant contact area.

20 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the step of protecting the printed circuit board is accomplished with a portion of the protective collar.

25 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the protective collar is included in the fabrication of the elongated support member.